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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/670,867	09/25/2003	Masahiro Suzuki	20241/0207058-US0	5798

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EXAMINER

HAGOPIAN, CASEY SHEA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1615

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/22/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/670,867	Applicant(s) SUZUKI, MASAHIRO	
	Examiner Casey Hagopian	Art Unit 1615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4 and 8-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4 and 8-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of applicant's Amendment/Remarks filed 8/13/2007.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7 have been cancelled. Claim 3 has been amended. Claims 8-11 are new. Thus, claims 3, 4, and 8-11 are currently pending.

MAINTAINED REJECTIONS

The following rejections are maintained from the previous Office Action dated 4/13/2007:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected and newly added claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (USPN 5,980,926) in view of Hoy et al. (USPN 5,208,030).

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Suzuki teaches a water dispersible granule formulation and method of making thereof. Specifically, Suzuki teaches a method of making said water dispersible granule by a) admixing an active agent (e.g., triflumizole), a wetting and dispersing agent (e.g., tristyryl phenyl ether, ethylene oxide, sodium polycarboxylate), and water and subjecting the mixture to wet granulation to produce "WDG-SC" with an average particle size of 1.5 microns; b) admixing a wetting and dispersing agent (e.g., sodium alkylnaphthalenesulfonate, sodium alkylbenzenesulfonate, a formaldehyde condensate of sodium ligninsulfonate), a mineral carrier (e.g., diatomaceous earth) and a second active agent (e.g., potassium chloride) and subjecting the mixture to dry milling to produce "WDG-WP"; c) mixing "WDG-SC" and "WDG-WP" and then granulating and drying the mixture (Example 1). Suzuki also teaches that "any pesticide which is in solid at an ambient temperature, is hardly-soluble in water and preferably has a solubility in water as much as 2000 pm can be used as the pesticidal component usable in the present invention without any limitation, and more than 2 pesticidal components may be used in combination" (col. 2, lines 40-45). Suzuki also teaches particular pesticides including triflumizole, thiuram, fluazinam, anilazine, captan, hexythiazox, benzoximate, tebufenpyrad, ziram, thiophanate-methyl and benzamideixime compounds represented by a general formula (1) (col. 2, lines 45-60).

It should be noted that the examiner is giving the terms "first active ingredient" and "second active ingredient" their broadest most reasonable interpretation. Said terms are undefined in the instant specification and there are a number of disclosed and undisclosed ingredients that read on said terms. Thus, the examiner has interpreted

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potassium chloride (Example 1) to read on "a second active ingredient" because potassium chloride is a well-known source of potassium in, for example, fertilizers in order to provide plants a required nutrient for growth.

Suzuki is silent to the average particle size of about 3 microns to about 30 microns of the second active agent.

Hoy teaches an active ingredient dosage device and a method of making said device (col. 1, lines 1-9). More specifically, Hoy teaches including "at least one active ingredient" and comminuting said active ingredient to an "average particle size of less than 5 microns" (col. 1, lines 10-12). Hoy also teaches "the comminution may be effected by dry milling the active ingredient, e.g. by means of micronization, to the desired particle size" (col. 1, lines 20-23). Also, Hoy teaches the active ingredient can be any suitable active ingredient (col. 1, line 36). It should be noted that Hoy's "less than 5 microns" reads on the claimed "about 3 to about 30 microns" because they are overlapping ranges. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to include a particle size of less than 5 microns because said size promotes "effective, accurate and even distribution" of the active ingredient (col. 6, line 33). A practitioner would reasonably expect an active ingredient with a particle size of less than 5 microns to be evenly distributed when dispersed in water. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the average particle size of about 3 microns to about 30 microns as suggested by Hoy.

Suzuki is also silent to a second active ingredient that is an agricultural chemical having insecticidal, fungicidal or herbicidal activity.

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Hoy teaches a method of making a dosage device comprising dry milling at least one active ingredient to an average particle size of less than 5 microns. Hoy also teaches that any active ingredient may be used, especially a pesticide, such as an insecticide, herbicide, fungicide or the like (col. 1). Hoy further teaches the particular active agents, thiophanae methyl, captan, thiram, and hexythiazox (col. 1; claim 7) as well as incorporating wetting/dispersing agents and absorptive carriers such as the particular mineral carriers, diatomaceous earth or clay (col. 2). Because both references teach products comprising various pesticides that utilize similar ingredients and include similar methods for the same purpose, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to include more than one pesticide in order to achieve the predictable result of eliminating a wider range of pests and/or fungi. Additionally, it is desirable from an economic standpoint to have one multi-purpose dosage device. Thus, in Suzuki it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include more than one pesticide as suggested by Hoy.

Response to Arguments

The amendments made to the claims render the rejection under 35 USC 112 moot. **Thus, the rejection of claims 3 and 4 under 35 USC 112 has been withdrawn.**

Applicant's arguments with regards to the rejection of claims 3 and 4 under 35 USC 103 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that

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the cited references do not provide any teaching, suggestion or motivation for a method of using a first active agent and a second active agent. Applicant further asserts that Suzuki discloses potassium chloride only as a mineral carrier, rather than an active agent and that the instant specification discloses the active ingredients of the invention as agricultural chemicals having insecticidal, fungicidal or herbicidal activity. Applicant also argues that Hoy is silent to potassium chloride and as such, a skilled artisan would not have been motivated to combine the references. In response, it is respectfully submitted that the instant specification fails to define the terms, "first active ingredient" and "second active ingredient". Also, there are a number of disclosed and undisclosed ingredients that read on said terms. The examiner must give the terms their broadest most reasonable interpretation and as such, the examiner has interpreted potassium chloride (Example 1) to read on "a second active ingredient" because potassium chloride is a well-known source of potassium in, for example, fertilizers in order to provide plants a required nutrient for growth. The fact that Suzuki discloses potassium chloride as a mineral carrier is irrelevant because potassium chloride can have several intended uses such as the one discussed above. If potassium chloride is capable of being used as an active agent then it meets the limitations of the claims. Applicants are reminded that the claims are interpreted in light of the specification however; limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Regarding the arguments concerning Hoy, it is respectfully submitted that Hoy generically teaches that any suitable active ingredient may be used (col. 1, lines 36-37), which reads on potassium chloride. Thus, one skilled

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in the art would be motivated to look to Hoy for the average particle size of less than 5 microns. For these reasons, applicant's arguments are found unpersuasive.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 3 and 4 under 35 USC 103 is maintained.

Conclusion

All claims have been rejected; no claims are allowed.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Casey Hagopian whose telephone number is 571-272-

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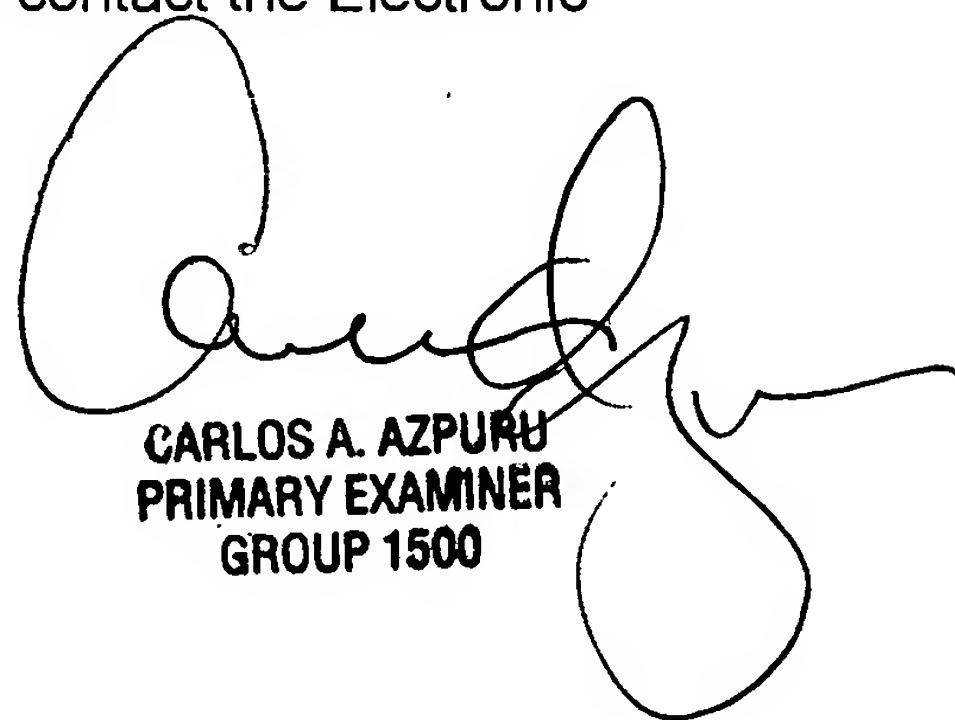
6097. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carlos Azpuru, can be reached at 571-272-0588. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Casey Hagopian/

Casey Hagopian
Examiner
Art Unit 1615



CARLOS A. AZPURU
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1500